

BLM Socioeconomics Program New Staff Bios

Stewart Allen, Socioeconomic Specialist, Pacific Zone (AK, CA, OR/WA)

Stewart Allen has a Ph.D. in Forestry from the University of Montana and an M.A. in Psychology from Claremont Graduate School. He has worked as a social scientist for NOAA Fisheries in Honolulu, the Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage, and the Forest Service in Juneau and Walla Walla. He taught at the University of Montana and University of Idaho, worked as a consultant in human dimensions of natural resources, and authored over 100 articles and presentations in the field. He also co-developed and co-taught the Bureau of Land Management training course Social and Economic Aspects of Planning. He was awarded a Bronze medal by NOAA Fisheries and two outstanding science findings awards by the Forest Service. His areas of expertise include social impact assessment, natural resource communities, collaborative planning, rivers and protected areas, recreation uses and conflicts, social and economic values, subsistence, and facilitation.

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Michael Johnson, Socioeconomic Specialist, Sun Zone (AZ, NM)

Michael Johnson has more than 25 years of Federal experience as an anthropologist and archaeologist. With both undergraduate and graduate degrees in anthropology, Michael has worked for the US Forest Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and now, the USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Michael has experience in doing applied anthropology with Tribes and other ethnic groups throughout the Western United States, and has done fieldwork in American Samoa and with native Hawaiian homesteaders. Until assuming his duties as the Sun Zone Social Scientist, Michael was BLM Arizona's Deputy Preservation Officer and program lead for cultural resources, paleontology, and tribal consultation. Michael has experience in defining communities of interest, social marketing techniques, examining the human aspects of natural resource management, and developing socially and culturally appropriate outreach methods.

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Jessica Montag, Socioeconomic Specialist, Blue Sky Zone (CO, MT, WY)

Jessica M. Montag has had a lifelong affinity for natural resources and the outdoors stemming from summers and weekends spent exploring the family property in south-central Wisconsin. She earned M.S. (Recreation Resource Management) and Ph.D. (Wildlife Biology) degrees at the University of Montana. She has had opportunities to work for the US Forest Service as a social scientist in planning for Region 1 (Dakotas, Montana, and northern Idaho) as well as a human dimensions specialist for the Washington, D.C. Ecosystem Management Coordination Unit. Most recently, Jessica was a social scientist focused on natural resource

management issues for the U.S. Geological Survey's Policy Analysis and Science Assistance Branch in Fort Collins, CO. Her areas of interest include human dimensions of energy development, agriculture, and climate change; social-ecological integrated modeling, social impact analysis, conflict resolution and collaboration; and the development of decision-support tools for natural resource managers.

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Rebecca Moore, Economist, Washington Office Socioeconomics Program

Rebecca Moore holds a Ph.D. in Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin and a B.A. in Geology from the University of Colorado. She was previously an Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Economics at the University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. Rebecca's expertise covers a range of environmental and natural resource economic topics, including ecosystem services valuation, conservation incentive programs, and spatial and dynamic decision making. She has contributed to several integrated, multi-disciplinary natural resource management projects and research groups. These include two NSF Long-Term Ecological Research sites (CWT and NTL) exploring regional socio-ecological interactions and the Center for Integrative Conservation Research at the University of Georgia. She has taught a variety of courses for natural resource professionals covering economics methods and tools most relevant to resource management.

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Julie Pierce, Socioeconomic Specialist, Great Basin Zone (ID, NV, UT)

Julie Suhr Pierce holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from the University of Utah. She was previously the State Economist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Utah. She has taught at the University of Utah since 1995 and has also taught at several other universities in Utah. Her fields of specialization include natural resource, environmental, and public economics, public lands management, NEPA, behavioral economics, and applied decision theory. In her position at NRCS, Julie provided assistance and leadership in assignments ranging from farm- and ranch-level economic evaluations up through national-level projects. She was a contributing author for the UN's 2012 Global Environment Outlook (GEO-5) report and has provided conservation planning and economics training for NRCS, as well as presenting at regional, national, and international meetings and conferences. Julie participates in the sport of ultrarunning.

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